

LAYHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 22 June 2022 in the Village Hall

Present: Charlotte Britton (CB)
Jane Cryer - Clerk (JC)
John Curran (JDC)
Sue Keeble (SK)
David Pratt (DP)
Sheila Roberts (SR)
Michael Woods - (MW)

In attendance: 5 Parishioners

Apologies: Georgia Hall, Suffolk CC (GC)
John Ward, Babergh DC (JW)

22.6.1 APOLOGIES

See above.

22.6.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CB and SK declared an interest in agenda item 22.6.8.2, as members of the LLHG.

22.6.3 PUBLIC FORUM

Parishioners wished to comment on agenda item 22.6.10.1; the key points made were:

- Layham was not considered to be a core village for purposes of development; it was in the 'hinterland' of Hadleigh and East Bergholt. The application suggested there would be little increased need for cars; however, it would not be possible to walk to East Bergholt and there was virtually no bus service;
- The proposed application was for a development outside the settlement boundary in a Special Landscape Area. The erection of two properties in 2015/16 to replace one existing property had been approved, but the gardens were designated as amenity land to prevent a third property being built outside the settlement boundary;
- The proposed road, running parallel to Upper Street, would cause light pollution and increasing traffic noise;
- There has been no housing need demonstrated, particularly given the development in Hook Lane to provide up to 200 dwellings;
- There would be no economic benefit to Layham and there was insufficient local infrastructure;
- The report submitted stated that there had been no major accidents along Upper Street. However, traffic flow had increased significantly over the past six years and there had actually been several accidents requiring police attendance.
- A large pond in Raworth Park drained via underground streams and surface water drains on the way to the river; the proposed development could lead to flooding issues;
- The existing screening was deciduous, therefore providing no screening for adjacent properties for much of the year;
- The possible impact on wildlife.

With regard to speeding, JDC explained the location of the SID device in Upper Street was changed every 7-10 days, and served as a visual reminder to motorists. However, unfortunately, due to the proliferation of these devices across the county, the police did not have the manpower to process the data. However, SCC was carrying out an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) trial and Layham would be included. Motorists caught on camera contravening the speed limit would receive up to three letters; followed by a visit from the police.

22.6.4 CASUAL VACANCY /ELECTION

Thirteen electors had written to Babergh to request an election. There were two candidates; therefore an election would take place on Thursday 14 July, in the Village Hall. JC confirmed that the cost would be £1400.

22.6.5 ADJOURNMENT TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

22.6.5.1 District Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. It was agreed that it would be helpful to receive the reports earlier in the month.

22.6.5.2 County Council report

A written report had been circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. MW commented on the lack of action to improve the footpath between Upper Layham and Hadleigh, given SCC's 'Keep Moving Suffolk Walking Challenge' and its ongoing commitment to walking initiatives.

22.6.6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by DP and agreed unanimously that the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 18 May 2022 should be accepted as an accurate record, and signed accordingly.

22.6.7 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Most of the actions were either ongoing or were on the agenda. There were updates on the following:

22.6.7.1 Speeding - Stoke Road

JC confirmed that she had sent a community email reminding parishioners to let her know of any speeding incidents they had witnessed, especially along Stoke Road in Lower Layham.

22.6.7.2 QLS

MW confirmed that the Quiet Lanes signs would be put up during June. It was noted that the pole installed by SCC at the top of Water Lane was higher than necessary; this would be addressed.

22.6.7.3 Broken marker post

JC had established that the broken marker post at the junction of Mill Lane and Watermill Close was the responsibility of the Fire Service rather than Anglian Water; she would contact them.

22.6.8 FINANCIAL MATTERS

22.6.8.1 RFO's report

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by SK and agreed unanimously that the finance report for 22 June 2022 should be approved and payments of £2,783.51 authorised. It was noted that some payments, as well as income of £4035.55, related to the Jubilee Fete.

22.6.8.2 Layham Local History Group

MW explained that the LLHG had been asked to contribute towards the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations by putting on an exhibition; however, the costs had been higher than anticipated. As there was £100 in the budget set aside for the LLHG; MW proposed that the PC should contribute £50 towards the exhibition expenses. His proposal was seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously.

22.6.8.3 Annual Return Section 1 - Governance Statement

It was proposed by DP, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously to approve the Governance Statement.

22.6.8.4 Annual Return Section 2 - Accounting Statements

It was proposed by JDC, seconded by CB and agreed unanimously to approve the Accounting Statements.

22.6.9 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

22.6.9.1 Emergency Plan

JDC's report was noted. He had been contacted by the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit, which was offering parish councils the opportunity to take part in a desk-top exercise to test the validity of their emergency plans. As it had already been decided to carry out a review of the plan later in the year, it was proposed by CB, seconded by MW and agreed unanimously that this would be a useful exercise. JDC would confirm the cost and circulate some possible dates.

22.6.9.2 Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fete

SR's report was noted. The event had been extremely successful; MW proposed a vote of thanks to the Fete Committee and all the volunteers. The Events Committee would be meeting shortly to discuss how best to distribute the funds raised.

22.6.10 PLANNING

22.6.10.1 DC/22/02937 - Land north of The Street, Upper Layham - application for OPP

SK referred to Policy CS2 of Babergh's Core Strategy, which stated '*outside of the settlement boundary, development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances subject to a proven justified need*'; there did not appear to be a 'proven justified need'. She agreed with parishioners' concerns about drainage, given that there were already problems with an existing drain in the area. JDC and SR both referred to accidents logged on the Parish Online site, which showed nine accidents along The Street during the past twenty years. Referring again to the SID device, JDC said the majority of vehicles travelling at more than 30mph were doing at least 50mph. MW commented that the proposed private road would not be wide enough to allow for more than one delivery vehicle at a time. He was also concerned about the overgrown hedgerow which caused motorists to edge into the middle of the road in order to avoid damage to their vehicles. It was proposed by SK, seconded by JDC and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council should object strongly to the application.

(see also Public Forum, above).

22.6.10.2 DC/21/02929 - The Barn, Popes Green Farm

Councillors noted that permission had been granted for the erection of a dwelling, following demolition of a barn.

22.6.11 NOTICEBOARDS

As agreed at the last meeting, the noticeboards at the top of Mill Lane in Upper Layham, and near the Queen's Head in Lower Layham, would be refurbished. The noticeboard at the Recycling Centre was beyond repair and would be replaced. However, following a site visit, MW said there was insufficient room for a larger board in the current location. It was suggested that a larger notice board could be located elsewhere on the Playing Field. A working party comprising CB, MW and SK was formed to investigate the various possibilities and costs.

22.6.12 CORRESPONDENCE

22.6.12.1 Results of planning applications to note only (received after agenda issued)

DC/22/02233 - Agricultural land north of Partridge Cottage, Stoke Road: permission granted for erection of an agricultural building.

DC/22/02008 & 02087 - Valley Farm, Rands Road: permission refused for erection of rear door canopy and replacement sash windows.

22.6.13 CLERK'S REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

None.

22.6.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 27 July, in the Village Hall.

* * * * *